

31 August 1999

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Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers La, Rm. 1061
Rockville, MD. 20852

Subject: Docket No's. 98N-1230, 96P-0418, 97P-0196

Stop Cruel Forced Molting Practices

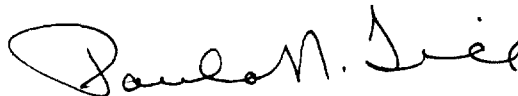
Please stop the cruel practice of FORCED MOLTING on SOME 195 MILLION HENS in North America to get one more batch of eggs before being sent to slaughter.

I understand this throws the hens' systems into collapse, stressing and shocking their worn-out bodies into laying one more batch of eggs. Hens are deprived of food for up to two weeks, water is restricted for up to eight weeks and they are kept in pitch dark for weeks on end.

Forced molting can be harmful to humans as well. Increases of frequency and severity of Salmonella enteritidis among hens. The stressful conditions weaken their immune systems so badly they become prone to disease and salmonella infections. - Resulting in sick birds and contaminated eggs.

I don't think the public needs more contamination, from whatever sources.


Sincerely,



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96P-0418

C497

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HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION
CROSS REFERENCE SHEET

Docket Number/Item Code: 98N-1230/C497

See Docket Number/Item Code: 97P-0197/C498
96P-0418/C497